

Assemblyman  
**PAUL KORETZ**

**Forty-second Assembly District**

*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **UCLA Study Says Discrimination Against Gay Families in California Costs More Than Equal Treatment**

**(Sacramento)** UCLA's Williams Project on Sexual Orientation Law and the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies at the University of Massachusetts today announced the results of a study that has estimated a positive state budget impact of \$8 to \$10 million for AB 205 (Goldberg). AB 205 would expand California's domestic partnership law to include virtually all rights and responsibilities available to married couples. The bill is currently held on suspense in the Assembly Appropriations Committee due in part to its perceived negative cost impact of \$5 million to state tax collections as assessed by the California Franchise Tax Board.

"This UCLA study is more thorough than the Franchise Tax Board estimates which were based on incorrect assumptions that lesbians and gay men have higher incomes than straight couples. Numerous studies have shown that gay and lesbian incomes are actually lower, and the UCLA study accounts for what is empirically known about income levels, rather than mass media stereotypes," said Assemblymember Paul Koretz (D- West Hollywood), one of the co-authors of AB 205.

According to the 2000 Census, Mr. Koretz's hometown of West Hollywood weighs in at nearly 20% of all couples being same-sex partners, ranking third in the nation behind the gay resort towns of Provincetown, MA and Guerneville, CA.

The Assembly Appropriations Committee is expected to consider AB 205 this week and will determine if the bill will be allowed to move to the Assembly floor for a vote. As the Legislature grapples with the budget deficit, all bills are expected pass a financial impact litmus test and AB 205 is no exception.

"Until now, the cost of discrimination against lesbian and gay families has been measured by the human impacts of child custody, lost homes, and gross injustice. With the Williams Project study we now know discrimination has a negative financial impact to state government that further underscores the need for equal treatment for gay and lesbian families everywhere," said Koretz.

The study is available online at: <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsproject/wppolicystudy1.pdf>

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